

A rule change that would permit an increase in the number of media outlets that are owned by one individual or corporation is not in the public interest. The airwaves belong to the American people and as such they should reflect the diversity of opinions and ideas that are held by our society. If further media consolidation were to occur this diversity would be replaced by one group with one set of ideals and values. This is not healthy for a democracy. The argument that there are other forms of expression (cable tv, internet, satellite) for these ideas is utter nonsense. None of these other "outlets" are completely accessible without charge as are our radio and tv airwaves. These proposed rule changes are a major step towards total media control by the few - and that leaves our democracy open to the forces of extremism and fascism.

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